

## Note from the President

Fish Trap Lake, 2015

It was a very pleasant summer. Fishing was good, water levels moderate and water quality reports very promising. For the second year in a row, a lake wide study found less than 5 acres of curly-leaf pondweed, a substantial decrease from 130 acres 10 years ago. In July, in a lake study made possible through the use of our endowment funds, Blue Water Science found that fish and plant diversity was good, water quality was very good and shoreline conditions were in excellent natural condition in much of the lake. The full report is at <http://fishtraplake.com>. The study by Blue Water Science is consistent with the findings by RMB labs which has analyzed the water samples collected on our lake and observed a clear downward trend in levels of phosphorus and chlorophyll-A over the last 9 years (<http://www.rmbel.info>). The one very sad piece of news, of course, was the confirmation by the Minnesota DNR of zebra mussels around the perimeter of our lake. Zebra mussels were indeed found on several docks and boat hoists this fall as they were removed from the lake.

In September, FTLPOA and the FTLID sponsored a panel discussion on zebra mussels with representatives from the DNR, Christmas Lake Association and the Initiative Foundation. Panel members noted that chemical treatment is not an option as the zebra mussels have spread to the entire perimeter of our lake. The panel stressed the importance of maintaining good water quality and preventing infestation by other aquatic invasive species. Our association is working with the DNR on the installation of better signage at the lake access and will be encouraging Morrison County to join with Crow Wing County in a cooperative lake access inspection program. Any other ideas are appreciated and can be sent to our email address at [fishtraplake@yahoo.com](mailto:fishtraplake@yahoo.com).

The panel members agreed that some lakes are affected more than others but disagreed on the impact to our lake. The representative from the DNR noted that fishing will continue to be good and lake usage moderately impacted. This view contrasted with the opinion of the representative from Christmas Lake who believed that the impact will be very substantial. Panelists agreed that property values were not likely to be significantly impacted. They suggested lake owners wear water shoes to protect feet from zebra mussel shells and purchase boat lifts to keep zebra mussels from attaching to boats and motors. I recommend reading the minutes of that meeting which can be found on our website. On a positive note, one week after the panel discussion, the association received the Blue Water Science report (see above) which looked at the susceptibility of our lake to the zebra mussel infestation. They noted an indication that due to our low level of algae (a zebra mussel food source), "zebra mussel growth will be limited to light to moderate."

In addition to water quality, our board has been actively pursuing other issues such as safety and noise at the Lincoln railroad crossing and current lake development practices. Due to the volume of issues during the year we have summarized the board meeting notes, the zebra mussels discussion and the Water Quality Study report in the newsletter in order to conserve on printing and postage. A full discussion on mussels, the extensive final report on the lake and our entire minutes can be found on our website, [fishtraplake.com](http://fishtraplake.com).

It has been a pleasure serving as president of the Fish Trap Lake Property Owner's Association for the last 8 years. This association has a long history of proactive work on lake quality made possible by the commitment of all of our board members who have devoted significant time and energy. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with them. As we move forward, it will be particularly important to continue to strive to mitigate and prevent invasive aquatic species. I am stepping down as president but will remain on the board. I encourage all of you to participate in both the FTLPOA and FTLID activities as there are important discussions and challenging decisions to be made in the upcoming years.

Chuck Salter

# Minutes of the FTLPOA Annual Meeting

June 13, 2015

Scandia Valley Township Hall

(Edited: complete minutes available on web site)

**Board Members Present:** Chuck Salter, President, Scott Schnuckle, Vice President, Mike Flanagan, Newsletter, George Heroux, Treasurer, Peg Hartung, Peggy Swalm, Paul Baker, Brian Sams, David Thibert, Ron Mash and Mary Thibert, Secretary.

**The meeting began at 9:30 AM.**

**1. President's Welcome and Introduction of Guest:** Chuck Salter welcomed the FTLPOA members and introduced the guest speakers: Kevin Maurer, Morrison County Commissioner, Glen Erickson, Morrison County Assessor, Greg Van Eeckhout, MPCA.

**2. Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's report from the FTLPOA Board meeting April 11, 2015 was accepted.

**3. Treasurer's Report:** George Heroux submitted the financial report. The financial report showed that the checking balance is not keeping up with expenses.

George reported that there has been a decrease in the membership to FTLPOA.

In 2013 there were 213 members.

In 2014, there were 186 members.

As of 6/12/15 there were 86 members.

George expects this year's membership to increase because many members have not paid their dues and wait until the annual meeting to pay the dues. There was discussion on why there has been a decrease in membership. In order to decrease some expenses Connie D made the motion to stop sending out membership cards. Ray B seconded it. The motion carried. George Heroux also reported that Peg Hartung donated the fee that she received for managing the fishing contest to the Endowment Fund. The Financial report was accepted. (see web site)

**4. Guest Speakers:** Glen Erickson-County Assessor stated that by state regulation he is required to inspect property every 5 years. When a FTLPO is due for an inspection he/she will get a letter from the assessor's office asking them to be present for their inspection. He will try to arrange the inspection around the FTLPO's schedule. Glen stated that property values are going up. However, taxes may not go up because they are primarily based on levies.

Kevin Maurer, Morrison County Commissioner spoke next. In regards to the expansion of the of the Fish Trap Lake Campground he is in favor of it as long as an Environmental Assessment Worksheet(EAW) is completed and that all permits have been filed. He stated that when a campground has 100 sites or more MN law requires that they get a MPCA permit for their septic system. If there are less than 100 sites the septic system is regulated by the County. FTL Campground was sold 2 ½ years ago to Jeff and Julie Hardy. The Campground was out of compliance at that time with the MPCA. They should have obtained a MPCA permit. Kevin Maurer does not know why FTL Campground did not get the MPCA permit. Right now the MPCA is waiting for new legislation regarding septic systems and campgrounds. All campground septic systems are on hold until the legislation addresses the issue.

On Tuesday June 9th the Morrison County Board denied the need for an EAW but will put conditions on the variance that will include that all permits need to be filed and completed. Kevin commented that the expansion of the FTL Campground/Scenic View Resort seems inconsistent with the aim of both the Morrison County's Comprehensive Plan and Morrison County's Soil and Water Plan which had input from the LIDs and private citizens. Brian Sams made the comment that if the Campground meets all the requirements they should be allowed to expand.

Kevin Maurer also reported that the conditional variance approval requires the campground to decrease the number of boats docked by 16 and reduce the dock size in 2016. Morrison County's Planning and Zoning will monitor the Campground and make sure that they are in compliance. Kevin Maurer was asked why the EAW was not approved. He declined to answer this question. (see web site)

Kevin Maurer also spoke about the train noise issue. He stated that he met with Scandia Valley. Burlington Northern wants the Lincoln crossing closed. However, there is opposition from Scandia Valley Fire Chief. Burlington Northern is doing a study and will report its findings at the next Scandia Valley Township meeting. In regards to the Camp Ripley bomb noise issue, Kevin Maurer reported that there has been some complaints about when Camp Ripley conducts bomb exercises. Scott, Camp Ripley's Commander, reports to Morrison County Board regarding the Camp's bomb schedule. Chuck Salter stated that he will call Scott to determine if Camp Ripley can place their schedule on the Web site.

Greg Van Eeckhout from the MPCA spoke on water quality. He reported that FTL's water quality is good and is getting better. Scott Schnuckle commented "that there are a number of different agencies involved in protecting our lakes and rivers and that at this time the coordination appears poor between the agencies." He feels "we need a workable and enforceable plan to protect our lakes with each agency and our lake association understanding their respective roles." Greg Van Eeckhout stated that how rules are enforced depends on money and time. (see web site)

Kevin Maurer stated that we have the current documents that tell us what to do but we need to elect people who will look at them and follow them.

## **5. Old Business**

a. The Lake Improvement District (LID) has a \$6000 grant for the treatment of Curly Leaf Pondweed. The LID reported that last year 4 acres were treated for Curly Leaf Pondweed. The first year the LID treated 60-70 acres. This year the DNR found 8 spots and really did not want the LID to treat them due to the small volumes in each area. The LID did treat the 8 areas at a cost of \$5000, primarily to remain eligible for future grant money. The LID financial report is good with \$26,000 in their checking account. This past year each FTLPO paid the LID \$40.00. The LID voted to decrease the assessment dues for 2016 to \$10.00/year. Also discussed was that Hennepin County has a signage project for public landings to help decrease the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). (see web site)

b. Septic Systems Inspections: In summary: 250 systems were inspected and 64 failed. More information regarding these inspections are available on the Web Site.

c. Lead Sinkers: Scott Schnuckle spoke about the impact that lead sinkers and lead bullets have had on the State's waterfowl birds and raptors. There is more information on the DNR's Web site. FTLPOA could also have signage at the public landing to increase the awareness of this problem and should consider a link on our Web site. Additional ideas included sending letters to bait shop owners, having pamphlets at the public landing and communicating with our elected representatives about this concern. (see web site)

d. Water Quality: Gary Green spoke for Jim Fogelberg of the results of their 5 test samples that are sent to RMB Labs for analysis. The results are on the Web site. The readings of FTL are better than Shamineau. This year ice out was 4/9/15. Last year ice out was 4/28/15. Earliest on record was 3/22/12 and the latest was 5/13/13. The lake level for the fall of 2014 was normal. (see wweb site)

e. Water Levels and Beaver Dams. Brian Sams reported there has been high water and high winds. He stated that FTL Creek has little effect on the lakes water level but he tries to keep it open. There are no beaver dams. This year he removed 2 starter dams and 8 beavers were trapped and removed. The beaver dams in the Thorough Fare are gone.

f. **Initiative Fund:** Scott Schnuckle reported that a committee was formed. The committee consists of the following people: Julie Novak, Mike Flanagan, David Thibert, David Ellering and Scott Schnuckle. They chose to use some of the funds to have Blue Water Science analyze the water. Steve McComas will begin his research in July. The cost of this research is approximately \$2200. The results will be posted on the Web site. Scott Schnuckle asked FTLPOA to accept Blue Water Science to do the research. Mary Thibert motioned to accept the recommendation. Laine Ropson seconded the motion. The motion carried.. Chris Ziehmman and Mike Ropson stated they would like to be on the committee. Brian Sams motioned to approve the new members. Mike Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion carried. (see web site)

g. **Train Rail Expansion and Train Noise:** Paul Baker reported that Burlington Northern Santa Fe is working on our behalf to close the Lincoln crossing. Scott Schnuckle, Chuck Salter and Paul attended a meeting with Burlington Northern to discuss delaying the rail expansion of a double track from Cushing to Randall. There will be no delay and the project should be completed May 2016. Some FTLPO think there might be the possibility of an increased risk for a catastrophic derailment because of this. FTLPOA is working with BNSF to decrease this risk. FTLPOA is also working with BNSF to decrease the train's speed. The Army Corp of Engineers is conducting an EAW regarding this expansion to double tracks. It should be completed in a few weeks He reported that there are 13.7 wetlands or about 7 miles of wetlands that will be filled in. The Army Corp of Engineers defines wet lands different than the DNR. A request by the FTLPOA for a public hearing was denied. BNSF assured FTLPOA that there will be no increase in the number of trains.

h. **Web Site:** Mike Flanagan reported that the Web site is active. During April through June about 300-400 people visited the Website. The Website is receiving support from local advertising. The advertising pays about half of FTLPOA expenses for the Website. A reminder The Website is fishtraplake.com and email address fishtraplake@yahoo.com .

i. **Trash/Recycling:** Mike Flanagan met with the recycling and trash collectors. He found the trash/recycling project would cost the FTLPOA about \$1000. And this does not include any security. There was concern raised by the residential FTLPOs who already pay for trash pickup. There was a suggestion to charge the FTLPO who use the trash/recycling site. The FTLPOA will continue to look at this project. Gary Green made the motion to table the Trash/Recycling project for now. Ray Barnaglie seconded the motion. The motion carried. (see web site)

j. **Region Wide Lake Association Update:** There is money available from Morrison County and the DNR for Lake Associations to stop the spread of AIS. There was discussion regarding a power wash station which uses high

temperatures available at the public landing. It would require a full time employee. A motion was made to continue to work with the Quad Lake Association. Laine Robson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Campground Expansion: Chuck Salter reported that an EAW was not ordered by Morrison County Board before the Fish Trap Lake Campground/Scenic View Resort could expand. He stated that in some circumstances an EAW is mandatory but with this expansion it was not mandatory. FTLPOA obtained the required number of signatures to petition the Environmental Quality Board asking for an EAW to be done before any expansion because we believe that this area is very fragile and sensitive. FTLPOA can appeal Morrison County's decision to not require an EAW to Morrison County District Court on the grounds that the Morrison County board was Arbitrary and Capricious. The Morrison County Board did not feel that FTL's soils are sensitive. FTLPOA felt that Morrison County Board could not make a good decision on this expansion without getting some more detailed and scientific information. Some Association members did some research and found that to obtain an attorney for an appeal it could cost \$5000. There was some discussion that maybe the Association could Gary Ziehmman motioned that the FTLPOA Board's use their discretion in regards to the expense of an appeal. Matt Kremae seconded the motion. The motion carried by 100 % of the FTPOA.
- b. Fishing Contest: It was decided to suspend the fishing contest at this time. New ideas will be discussed. (see web site)
- c. Elections of New Board members: Jim Licari, Paul Baker, Joan Russell, George Heroux and Peg Hartung terms end June 2015. Both Jim Licari and Joan Russell have declined to serve another term. Gary Ziehmman and Jon Scott Johnson wanted to serve on the board. Scott Schnuckle made a motion to accept the reelection of Paul Baker, George Heroux and Peg Hartung and new board members Gary Ziehmman and Jon Scott Johnson. Paul Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- d. Boat Parade: The boat parade will be July 4, 2015 at 12 noon. FTLPOs who want to participate in the parade are to meet in the bay by the campground.
- e. Door Prizes from Campfire Bay Resort.

7. The FTLPOA meeting was adjourned.

FTLPOA Board meeting followed the meeting.

- a. Leadership for next year: Chuck Salter has been the President for FTLPOA for 8-10 years. He has decided to resign from this position on September 30, 2015 but remain on the board. Scott Schnuckle will be the President of FTLPOA beginning October 1, 2015 and Mike Flanagan will be the Vice President. Both these positions are a 1 year appointment.
- b. The FTLPOA Board decided to look into an appeal of the EAW.
- c. The Fall board meeting will be September 19th at 9:30 am at Scandia Valley Township Hall.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary B Thibert

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## NOTICE

**With the rising cost of mailing and the addition of an association web site, the Board has decided that we will not continue the mailing of the newsletter to those property owners who do not pay the annual dues of \$25. We have many paying members that have asked that we continue to produce this newsletter twice a year. The complete set of minutes, meeting and activities histories and much other pertinent information is available on our web site: [fishtraplake.com](http://fishtraplake.com)**

## **FTLPOA Board Meeting September 19, 2015 at 9:30 Am Scandia Valley Township Hall**

**Board Members present:** Chuck Salter, President, Scott Schnuckle, Vice President, George Heroux, Treasurer, Mike Flanagan, Newsletter, Peg Hartung, Peggy Swalm, Jon Scott Johnson, Gary Ziehmman, Brian Sams, David Thibert and Mary Thibert, Secretary.

Guests: David Thorsett and Al Welden.

David Thorsett and Al Welden brought a concern to the FTLPOA board and requested help with their issue. They informed the board that someone recently purchased property with no lakeshore access and now wants to place a dock at the end of the fire road (Lincoln Beach Road). Board members recommended that David and Al first check to see if the township road is actually just an easement and not property owned by Scandia Valley which is typical for most city and county roads. (see web site)

1. **Secretary's Report:** The secretary's minutes from the FTLPOA annual meeting was submitted by Mary Thibert. Scott Schnuckle motioned to accept the minutes. Gary Ziehmman seconded it. The motion carried.

2. **Treasurer's Report:** George Heroux submitted the Treasurer's report. Membership has increased to 200 out of approximately 327 possible memberships. A memorial for Michael Puetz (who had been a member of the FTLPOA for many years) was received for the Endowment Fund. Mike Flanagan suggested that the balance for the Endowment Fund be reported on the Treasurer's Report. Blue Water Science received \$2,200 from the Endowment Fund and George is waiting to receive a bill from RMB Labs. Chuck Salter noted that the Treasurer's report was received. (see web site)

3. **Old Business:**

a. \$6000 Grant and CLP Treatment Update:

Chuck Salter reported that FTLPOA received a \$6000 grant from the DNR to treat Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP). This year the LID spent \$8000 to treat 8 spots on approximately 4 acres of CLP. There was much discussion on status of future lake treatment (see web site).

b. Water Quality and Water Study Updates:

In 2007 the MPCA declared FTL's water quality as impaired. Because Jim Fogelberg has been sampling FTL's water for 10 years the MPCA now has enough data available. In order to rate the status of water quality in FTL it is compared to other lakes in the ecoregion. (see web site)

c. Initiative Foundation Endowment:

FTLPOA had voted to approve endowment funds to hire Blue Water Science to conduct a lakeside study. Scott Schnuckle reported that he just received the report from Blue Water Science (BWS) of FTL's water analysis. The report was very positive. BWS used data from many sources such as the DNR, MPCA and Jim Fogelberg's data from the last 10 years. They also looked at FTL inflow (FTL is partially spring fed), the dissolved sodium levels and identified at least 37 aquatic and shoreline plants. They indicated in their report that 43 parcels could improve their natural shoreline buffer. Steve McComas from Blue Water Science recommends a 15 to 25 foot deep growth of native vegetation along at least 50% of their shoreline. The native weeds that are present may be a challenge for property owners but are very good for wildlife and fish. During BWS evaluation Steve was informed of the zebra mussel infestation. Steve McComas's opinion regarding the zebra mussels is that their growth will be explosive for a couple of years and then they will likely become food limited and their numbers will decrease. FTL has low levels of algae which is a zebra mussel food source. Because of the low levels of algae, zebra mussel growth will be light to moderate. FTL's clarity levels are at good levels. BWS complete analysis can be found on FTL's web site.

d. Train Rail Expansion and Train Noise:

Paul Baker reported that Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) wants to close the Lincoln crossing. Sandia Valley Township historically wanted to keep the crossing open. BNSF is working on a pump station so that the Fire Department will have access to water. Scott Schnuckle noted the advantages of having a speed zone regulation due to the added risk of derailments at higher speeds. The double track will be completed in 18 months. BNSF is not planning to improve the Lincoln crossing. (see web site)

e. Website Update:

Mike Flanagan reported that the website has been busy. Chuck Salter suggested that FTLPOA try to decrease the cost of maintaining the website. Maintaining the website is FTLPOA greatest expense. Several board members thought they knew someone who has the expertise and would be willing to assist with the site. (see web site)

f. Trash/Recycling Proposal: Mike Flanagan reported that there is nothing new.

g. Region Wide Meeting of Lake Associations Update:

Shamineau is concerned about losing shoreline because of high water levels.

h. Campground Expansion:

The board in July decided not to appeal Morrison County's decision to deny a petition for an Environmental Assessment Worksheet due to cost and low probability of success on appeal. The Morrison County Board did place conditions on the Campground's expansion to monitor run off which Helen McLennan, Morrison County Soil and Water Conservation District Manager, addressed and to follow MPCA regulations. Morrison County ordered the Campgrounds to remove 16 dock spaces by May 31, 2016. (see web site)

i. Board Duties, Responsibilities and Projects:

Chuck Salter submitted a report which lists board members duties. He believes that some of the President's duties need to be dispersed to other board members and that the LID needs to assume some duties for grant applications, LID annual reports, etc. (see web site)

#### **4. New Business:**

a. Zebra Mussels September Panel Discussion Review:

The FTLPOA board members discussed the Zebra Mussels panelist meeting. One board member disagreed with this conclusion citing that Christine Jurek, from the DNR did not have a favorable opinion. Mike Flanagan summarized the panelist discussion in this way. Zebra mussels will change fish patterns. Eurasian milfoil will effect recreation but is good for the fish and spiny water fleas are the worst AIS. The minutes to the panel discussion can be found on FTL's website. There is the possibility that his fee may be paid by the Endowment Fund. (see web site)

b. Signage at DNR Access:

Chuck Salter and Jon Scott Johnson reported that the DNR agreed to FTLPOA signage proposal. This year due to a grant from the State of MN each county in MN received funding to be used to prevent the spread of AIS. Morrison County received \$130,000. Morrison County's focus was on education. Several board members wanted to piggyback with Crow Wing County instead of waiting for Morrison County. All board members agreed that there needs to be more signage at the DNR access. There needs to be inspectors at the DNR access and the LID needs to be involved There have been AIS awareness grants available to assist with cost of installations thru Wendy Crowell at the DNR. (see web site)

c. Fall Newsletter:

Mike Flanagan is giving FTLPOA a 12 month notice that he will no longer head the Newsletter. He has been in charge of the newsletter for 5 years and believes there should be a change. (see web site)

d. Lake Development:

All FTLPO had their septic systems inspected in 2014. The last inspection was completed 11/4/14. 64 septic systems were found to be non-compliant. Those who have failed systems had 12 months to bring their system into compliance. All septic systems should be in compliance by 11/14/15. Amy Kowalzek, Morrison County Zoning and Planning Administrator had sent out reminder letters to property owners who have not had their septic system corrected. The board members also discussed the new house that is being built on the north side of the lake. FTLPOA board members would like the County to develop a plan to help deal with these inconsistencies Scott Schnuckle will follow up with Amy regarding all of the above issues. (see web site)

Beaver Dams: Brian Sams reported that there have been 2 fly overs to check for beaver dams. No beaver dams were seen. He plans on walking the creek in the near future to get an accurate visual of the area. He also told the board that he plans on building an activity building on his property. There will be a public hearing on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Spring FTLPOA Board meeting will be April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 at Scandia Valley Township Hall.

David Thibert motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Scott Schnuckle seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary B Thibert

# ZEBRA MUSSEL PANAL DISCUSSION

(see web site for more in-depth notes)

September 12, 2015

Scandia Valley Township Hall

Panelists:

Don Hickman, Initiative Foundation from Little Falls.

Phil Hunsicker, DNR officer who works with counties to develop plans to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

Joe Shneider, Secretary of MN Coalition of Lake Association and volunteering at Christmas Lake to combat zebra mussels.

Don reported that MN has funding available for all counties to prevent the spread of AIS. How much money each county receives depends on the number of boat accesses in the county and the number of parking spaces that are available at the accesses. In 2015, Crow Wing County received approximately \$450,000 and Morrison County received about \$130,000. Crow Wing County has hired 8 inspectors to monitor their lakes accesses. At this time Morrison County's focus is on education to prevent the spread of AIS although funds remaining from the 2015 grant can be used in 2016. One idea suggested by the panel was for Morrison County to participate with Crow Wing County and utilize Crow Wing's current infrastructure but increase the number of inspectors and include Morrison County lakes in the inspection program.

Phil reported that zebra mussels were found on Fish Trap Lake (FTL) on 6/30/15 by a citizen on the north section of the lake. The DNR investigated and confirmed that this was a widespread infestation of zebra mussels as they found approximately 75 zebra mussels around the perimeter of the lake. Because the DNR found adult zebra mussels they believe that the zebra mussels have been in the lake for approximately 2 years. At this time there are limited treatment plans for zebra mussels available for lakes. For FTL there is no treatment plan because the zebra mussels are widespread. There are no documented cases where zebra mussels have ever been eliminated from an entire lake. He suggested that FTLPOA focus should be to prevent the spread of other AIS such as Eurasian Milfoil (EM), Starry Stonewort and Spiny Water Fleas (SWF). The more types of AIS in a lake, the greater detrimental impact to the lake. The Panelist's believed that AIS plants are considered a nuisance but animal species such as zebra mussels and SWF are a "game changer" because they cause changes in the lake's ecosystem. They felt that:

EM and Curly Leaf Pond Weed are considered a nuisance because they cause dense masses of growth that are difficult to navigate.

Zebra mussels affect the lake by impacting the lowest level of the food chain. Baby zebra mussels float in the water column. Juvenile zebra mussels will drop down to the bottom of the lake to find a place to feed. Adult zebra mussels attach themselves to hard objects and native mussels. Adult zebra mussels can't move. When a zebra mussel dies, it leaves a sharp shell that cut human's and pet's feet. Adult zebra mussels and most likely the juvenile zebra mussels can live between 5 days (according to the DNR) to 30 days (according to Joe Shneider) out of the water depending on the temperature and humidity. All zebra mussels will die in the winter if they are out of the water. Because zebra mussels filter the water it makes the water cleaner.

SWF are extremely detrimental because they eat zoo plankton taking away nutrients from game fish. A combination of zebra mussels and spiny water fleas could have a considerable impact on the lower level of the food chain. SWF can attach to fishing lines. A cleaner lake means that aquatic plants grow at deeper levels resulting in a greater number of aquatic plants in the lake. Joe shared information about the zebra mussels on Christmas Lake. Christmas Lake is 264 acres and 1 mile from Lake Minnetonka and as a result, is often infested with the same AIS that are found in Lake Minnetonka. Property owners of Christmas Lake discovered EM five years after EM was discovered in Lake Minnetonka. Because the DNR found no adult zebra mussels and the infestation was localized to only the public access, they decided to treat the lake. Treatment for zebra mussels is very limited. There are only 3 chemicals available, Copper Sulfate, Zequanox and Potash.

Copper Sulfate

- It is expensive.
- It has an EPA label.
- Need permission from the DNR to use.
- It has some impact on native plants but it will kill zebra mussels.
- It is also used to treat lakes with swimmer's itch.

Zequanox

- It is expensive

- Was approved last year.
- It is a bacteria, which is used to clean the filtration pipes in lakes and rivers.

Potash

- It is cheap.
- It is not approved but Christmas Lake received special permission to use it.
- It works best but kills all mussels.

Christmas Lake treated 11 acres at the cost of \$100,000. The 130 property owners paid for half of the cost and a grant paid the rest. The Lake Association annual dues are now \$400/year.

Christmas Lake appears to be free of zebra mussels but the true test will be whether it can remain zebra mussel free for two years which will serve to show that the treatment was likely successful. Christmas Lake property owners wanted more protection so they are providing inspection coverage at the cost of over \$60,000 per year, half of which is paid by the property owners and half by the Minnetonka Watershed District.

What can FTLPO do? Joe strongly suggested that we need to control all accesses to FTL to protect our lake from other AIS. FTL has one public access which is controlled by the DNR, 2 resort accesses, one campground access and numerous private accesses. One person in attendance stated that, that would be impossible. Joe stated that it was not and cited an example of Lake Tahoe which is located both in Nevada and California. He also suggested inspectors and decontamination stations at the public access. He also thought FTLPOA should try to find answers to the following questions through a lake wide study:

1. How bad is the zebra mussel infestation?
2. Does FTL ecosystem have favorable conditions for the growth of zebra mussels? They like calcium and rocks.
3. What makes FTL more susceptible?

He suggested hiring a good company to analyze our lake to answer these questions. Someone informed Joe that the FTLPOA had already hired Blue Water Science to conduct a lake wide study and had recently also requested Blue Water Science to evaluate the potential impact of zebra mussels in FTL.

FTLPO can also do the following to deal with the zebra mussels:

- Use a boat lift to get the boat out of the water.
- If mooring a boat run the motor 2 times a week to get the baby zebra mussels out of the engine.
- Lift the boat's motor out of the water.
- Paint a lacquer on the boat lifts because zebra mussels don't like lacquer.
- Consider the fact that zebra mussels like aluminum over galvanized docking.
- Consider the fact that zebra mussels prefer the underside, quiet areas to attach to. Purchase a good pair of water shoes.
- Do not transport dead or alive zebra mussels although owners can remove them from a beach and dispose of them.

The panelists discussed specific problem with jet skis and boat trailers which can lodge AIS in hard to reach areas. A question was asked to the panelists "What will be the impact to FTL? The panelists did not have a uniform response. Some of the panelists felt that there would be no major impact on fishing and most believed that there would be no impact on property values. One panelist pointed out that fishing and property values on Lake Minnetonka and Gull Lake are still strong despite a zebra mussel infestation. They all agreed that the lake would have a shift in its food chain, the water will become clearer and aquatic plants will become more abundant as zebra mussels proliferate. Phil believed that zebra mussels are not the end of the world and that fishing will still remain good.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary B Thibert

Additional Resources:

- Blue Water Science report (available on FTLPOA website)
- Initiative Foundation website:
- <https://www.ifound.org/search?query=Invasive+species&submit=Search>



**Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association Inc.**  
**Financial Report**  
**6/12/15 to 9/18/15**

Total Bank Balance 6/12/15	\$9,173.49
Checking Account:	
Balance 6/12/15	\$7,021.93
Dues Paid	2,900.00
<u>Interest Earned</u>	<u>1.04</u>
Total Income	\$2,901.04
Other Revenue:	
Lake Grant	\$6,000.00
<u>Endowment</u>	<u>270.00</u>
Total Revenue	\$9,171.04
Expenses:	
Postage	147.00
<u>Web Page Hosting</u>	<u>487.50</u>
Total Expenses	\$634.50
Other Disbursements:	
Fish Trap Lake LID	6,000.00
<u>Transfer to Savings</u>	<u>270.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$6,904.50
Checking Balance 9/18/15	\$9,288.47
Endowment Savings Acct. Bal. 9/18/15	<u>\$3,007.02</u>
Total Bank Balance as of 9/18/15	\$12,295.49

Total contributions and interest in the endowment savings account to date: \$12,966.02

Total Members 2013 213

Total Members 2014 186

Total members as of 9/19/14 178

Total Members 9/18/15 196

Outstanding Bills : Peg Hartung (Annual Meeting), RMB Laboratory (Water testing)

Over 200 dues reminders were sent out in August, so far 69 memberships have been received.

## Announcement of New Officers and Board Members

Following the Annual Meeting in June, we announced the new slate of officers and welcomed new and returning Board members.

Chuck Salter, who has been president of our Board for the past decade and who has been a tremendous leader and volunteer, has elected to resign as president, but will remain on the Board. We are greatly indebted to Chuck and cannot thank him enough for his invaluable contributions to our lake during his time as president and look forward to his continued support. We also wish to thank Jim Licari and Joan Russell for their valued service as board members.

The new officers elected were the following:

Scott Schnuckle, President  
Mike Flanagan, Vice President  
George Heroux, Treasurer  
Mary Thibert, Secretary

Welcomed new and returning Board members include:

Paul Baker  
Peg Hartung  
George Heroux  
Jon-Scott Johnson  
Gary Ziehmman

We wish to thank each of them for their service and time commitment.

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## Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association Membership & Donation Form

Mission of Association: "To preserve our wildlife and water quality and promote safe recreation for the Fish Trap Lake community".

Members benefit from:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) monitoring of lake issues and legal advocacy             | 2) monitoring water level and water quality |
| 3) current information about lake issues                    | 4) voting rights at the annual meeting      |
| 5) coordination of the annual fishing derby and boat parade | 6) group action when new issues arise       |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**All donations and dues are fully tax deductible.**

**Contribution details:**

**2016 Annual Membership Dues** **\$25.00**

**Fish Trap Lake Initiative Foundation Grant Contribution** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

**All donors to the Fish Trap Lake Initiative Foundation will receive recognition for their contributions to our lake.**

**Make checks payable to: Fish Trap Lake Owners Association**

**Send check and form to: George Heroux (Treasurer)  
1032 Postel Drive  
Motley, MN 56466**

FISH TRAP LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 85

Cushing, MN 56443

**Initiative Foundation Endowment Fund Continues to Grow**

Our endowment fund managed by the Initiative Foundation continues to grow with generous additional contributions of \$3,007 in 2015 in addition to investment gains. The Fund is currently at \$26,850.33 prior to the addition of the 2015 contributions, bringing the total to \$29,857.35.

Our committee tasked with determining our first use of funds recommended investing in a lake study by Blue Water Science. This recommendation was approved by the Association at our Annual Meeting in June. The study cost us \$2,200 and is included on our website for review. We anticipate allocating further funds to have Steve McComas of Blue Water Science join us at our Annual Meeting in 2016. We will also consider, if approved by the committee and the Association in June, conducting further research on the runoff from the 5 culverts that drain from the railway into the watershed south of our lake, where we have lost many trees to unknown causes over the last several years.

We wish to thank the family of Michael Puetz for their kind donation in his name.

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**We wish to continue to recognize and thank those businesses in the community that continue to support us. Their information is also posted on our web site. Please contact them for your lake home needs.**

Action Dock & Boat Lift Services	612-414-7277	Ballou Plumbing & Heating	320-749-2190
Campfire Bay Resort	800-677-7263	Central Minnesota Electric	320-632-3946
Crookneck Construction	218-839-0800	Galston Construction	320-630-7852
Giza Plumbing	218-894-2284	Mark Pieper's Original Hilltop Sports	320-749-2055
Ideal Construction	218-894-3105	Innsbrook Motel & RV Park	320-749-2650
Kathy's Kut & Kurl	218-575-2519	Lincoln Gas & Bait	218-575-3137
Lincoln Lakes Liquor & Motel	218-575-2588	Randall Building Supplies	320-749-2721
Sweetwater Resort	218-575-2744		